

b2
11. (New) A door trim structure for automobiles as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the functional member attachment portion includes recesses and protrusions.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-11 are pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended by the present amendment. Claim 2 has been canceled by the present amendment. Claim 11 has been added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to under MPEP §608.02(g), and 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a); Claims 1-6 and 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gonas; and Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gonas.

Regarding the objections to the drawings, as indicated in the Office Action Figure 3 has been amended to include a legend --Prior Art--. The “functional members fitting to the inner door panel” of Claim 2 has been canceled, and Claim 1 now recites “a functional member attachment portion” which is shown in the drawings. Also, in the drawings the door trim, the inner door panel and the window have been corrected to illustrate cross hatchings for the appropriate materials. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested these objections be withdrawn.

Claims 1-6 and 8-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gonas.

Claim 1 is directed to a door trim structure for automobiles which includes an inner door panel. Further, the inner door panel includes a functional member attachment portion.

For example, as shown in Figure 1, the inner door panel and the door trim are formed to have a recess cross-section profile and inner surfaces which are generally sealed at any desired sites which may be used, for example, for attaching various functional devices (Specification, page 12, line 21 - page 13, line 4).

The Office Action states Gonas does not disclose that other functional members are attached to the inner door panel, but indicates Gonas discloses the structure of this application which is capable of supporting other functional members.

However, Gonas discloses a structural partition 72d which may act as the divider for retaining the foam within section 62d and from section 68d, for example as shown in Figure 6 (column 6, lines 30-32). Additionally, Gonas discloses the exterior facing wall 44 may have a groove 56 therein that forms partition 58 and a second groove 70 that forms a structural partition 72 to provide additional structure along interior section 68 and 69, as shown in Figure 2. Therefore, the structural partition 72d and grooves 56, 70, as disclosed in Gonas, do not permit a portion to which a functional member may be attached, as recited in Claim 1, and there is no evidence on the record which remedies this deficiency.

The Office Action also states regarding Claims 4 and 9, Gonas discloses the inner door panel acting also as a shock absorber is formed that it has a plurality of recesses (72d) on its surface.

However, the interior door panel 40 of Gonas does not include any grooves or recesses, and as discussed above the exterior facing wall 44 of the exterior door panel 20 may have grooves 56, 70, which form partitions and sections 68 and 69, for example as shown in Figures 2 and 6. Therefore, Gonas does not disclose the inner door panel acting also as a shock absorber is so formed that it has a plurality of recesses on its surface, as recited in Claims 4 and 9.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted independent Claim 1 and each of the claims depending therefrom are allowable.

In addition, new Claim 11 has been added to set forth the invention in varying scope, and Applicant submits it is supported by the originally filed Specification. In particular, support for new Claim 11 can be found in the Specification at page 12, lines 21-23.

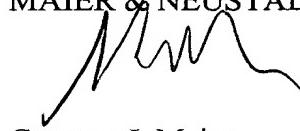
Gonas as discussed above fails to teach a functional member attachment portion, and in particular also fails to teach the functional member attachment portion includes recesses and protrusions, as recited in Claim 11.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted Claim 11 is allowable.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Robert T. Pous
Registration No. 29,099
Attorneys of Record



22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
GJM/RTP/JD:ys